

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0498

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF DECEMBER 9 AD HOC GROUP MEETING

BEGIN SUMMARY:

1. AT ITS DECEMBER 9 MEETING, THE AD HOC GROUP (AHG) HEARD REPORTS ON SEVERAL BILATERALS WITH THE EAST (SEPTTEL), APPROVED TALKING POINTS FOR THE DEC 10 INFORMAL, REVISED ALLIED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL (TEXT MBFR VIENNA 0490), APPROVED THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING 7 DECEMBER (TEXT MBFR VIENNA A-45) AND GAVE PROVISIONAL APPROVAL TO A DRAFT STATEMENT FOR USE AT THE ALLIED
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END -OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL). THE GROUP

DECIDED THAT THE ALLIED PRESS CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 12, FOLLOWING POLISH REP STRULAK'S PRESS BRIEFING. THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE WESTERN PRESS SPOKESMAN (DE VOS) WOULD NEED TO RETAIN FLEXIBILITY ON SOME ASPECTS OF HIS PRESENTATION IN ORDER TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF POSSIBLE LAST MINUTE EASTERN LEAKS REGARDING THEIR FREEZE PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

FINAL PLENARY STATEMENT OUTLINE

2. THE AHG BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE BRACKETED OPENING PARAGRAPH OF THE FINAL PLENARY STATEMENT FOR DECEMBER 12, A PARAGRAPH WHICH DEALT WITH THE ISSUE OF WHETHER THE VIENNA TALKS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON NEGOTIATING SUBSTANTIAL FORCE REDUCTION MEASURES OR SHOULD INSTEAD SEEK ONLY INTERMEDIATE GOALS INSTEAD (MBFR VIENNA 488, PARA 7). BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSSEN) POINTED OUT THAT THE THRUST OF THE PARAGRAPH, AS DRAFTED, WAS TO REJECT ANY WESTERN COUNTER-PROPOSAL ON THE FREEZE. THIS, HE SAID, WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO HIS AUTHORITIES, AND HE PROPOSED CHANGES TO GIVE THE PARAGRAPH A LESS NEGATIVE CAST. THE NETHERLANDS, FRG, AND UK REPS ALL SUPPORTED CHANGES IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE PARAGRAPH SO THAT IT WOULD NOT APPEAR TO FORCLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF A WESTERN COUNTER-PROPOSAL ON THE FREEZE.

3. UK REP (ROSE) POINTED OUT THAT THE GROUP WOULD NEED TO RECONSIDER THE PARAGRAPH IN LIGHT OF WHAT THE EAST WOULD SAY AT THE DECEMBER 10 INFORMAL. ROSE BELIEVED IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO INCLUDE THE ESSENTIALS OF THE NAC GUIDANCE ON THE FREEZE PROPOSAL IN THE FINAL PLENARY STATEMENT, SINCE THE EAST WOULD VERY LIKELY MENTION THE FREEZE AGAIN IN THEIR STATEMENT. FOR PURPOSES OF THE OUTLINE, THE GROUP REVISED THE FIRST PARAGRAPH, DELETING NEGATIVE REFERENCES TO MERE "TOKEN MEASURES" BUT BY CONTINUING TO REFER TO THE ALLIED WISH TO CONCENTRATE ON SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS AS OPPOSED TO "LIMITED INTERIM OBJECTIVES."

4. THE GROUP DISCUSSED AND GAVE PROVISIONAL
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APPROVAL TO A STATEMENT TO BE GIVEN AT THE END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE ALLIED SPOKESMAN (DE VOS). IN INTRODUCING THE PAPER, US REP SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN DRAFTED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE EAST WOULD HAVE LEAKED ITS FREEZE PROPOSAL BY THE TIME IT WAS DELIVERED. US REP CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE SPOKESMAN TO BE PREPARED FOR THAT CONTINGENCY AND ESSENTIAL THAT THE WESTERN PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOW THE EAST'S.

5. THE PRESS STATEMENT REVIEWS ALLIED MOVES IN THE CURRENT ROUND BUT DOES NOT ADDRESS THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, WHICH IS TREATED IN DRAFT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. THE PRESS STATEMENT WAS APPROVED PROVISIONALLY, WITH MINOR EDITORIAL CHANGES. THE GROUP WAS INFORMED THAT STRULAK'S BRIEFING WAS SCHEDULED FOR ABOUT 12:15 ON DECEMBER 13, AND AGREED THAT THE WESTERN PRESS CONFERENCE SHOULD TAKE PLACE SHORTLY THEREAFTER. RESOR

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